



Griffith Oil March 19, 1999

Introduction

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD) requested that the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH), Chemical Hazards Program, evaluate the extent of contamination and the potential for adverse health effects associated with the Griffith Oil Company site.

Site Description and History

The Griffith Oil Company is located on 3.87 rural acres, approximately 3 miles southeast of Arcade, Georgia. The site operated as a used oil recycling facility for approximately 16 years beginning in 1975 and has been inactive since operations ceased in 1991. Activities performed at the site prior to usage as an oil recycling facility are not known. Large volumes of wastes, including fuel storage tanks and drums, were abandoned on-site. Soil samples obtained during a site inspection in June 1994 by the GEPD, were determined to be characteristically hazardous for ignitability. In 1995, GEPD proceeded with a removal action, and contaminated soil associated with several waste storage areas was excavated and is stored on-site.

Environmental Sampling

To evaluate the impact of past site activities to groundwater in the vicinity, GEPD contracted to perform a phased groundwater assessment. Major activities performed during the assessment included geologic mapping of the site and vicinity, inventory and sampling activities at on- and off-site water supply wells, and the installation and sampling of six monitoring wells.

Results

Results of the site assessment indicate that the site is a source of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to the saprolite and bedrock aquifer systems on and around the site. The presence of VOCs in groundwater suggests that additional sources of organic contaminants may exist at or near the site. Unidentified sources are likely continuing to feed contaminant migration beyond the site boundary.

Conclusions

Based on the levels of VOCs detected in private wells, the site is considered a **public health hazard**, and a health advisory was issued for nearby residences.

Recommendations

- Establish a public information repository at the Jefferson Public Library for residents to review sampling data and reports pertaining to the site, as the EPA does for federal Superfund sites.
- Continue pursuing remediation efforts.
- Continue to inform affected residents of the potential exposure pathways and promote behaviors that may decrease their risk of exposure. GEPD is currently supervising these activities.
- Continue to encourage the use of alternative water supplies to protect affected residents and continue with plans to provide a permanent alternative water supply.
- Continue monitoring individual water wells in the vicinity of the site and initiate appropriate measures to minimize or eliminate exposure. GEPD is currently supervising these activities.